

When asked to reflect upon the Universal Design for Lessons process of lesson creation, I thought about this quote on the CAST website,

“The three UDL principles share one common recommendation: to provide students with a wider variety of options. . To accommodate a broad spectrum of learners, universally designed [curricula](#) require a range of options for accessing, using, and engaging with learning [materials](#). Like universal design in architecture, with its stairs, ramps, and elevators, these alternatives reduce barriers for individuals with disabilities but also enhance opportunities for every student.”(chp. 4.3)

The CAST sight and lesson builder process offer a great many opportunities for dedicated teachers to locate, practice, and master the use of new curriculum building tools to implement improved curriculum in all their classes. It is a lot of work to go through each of the activities on each of the pages, but the end result will be lessons that provide a scaffold on which to build deeper and broader knowledge bases for each child because the recommended activities reduce barriers, especially barriers that frequently complicate learning for disabled students.

I found it especially useful to compare the end result with a lesson plan generated from CScope. Many of the same activities were in the CScope detailed lesson plans. Many schools use CScope, but with the current budget situation, it is a relief to know the CAST site exists and it is free of charge. My administration was contemplating adding the CSCAPE service in order to do a better job of vertical alignment within our district. The UDL Lesson builder tool certainly has possibilities as a free and valuable resource for planning lessons for special populations at the very least, if not simply as free tools for teachers to use instead of CScope . I am thinking a teacher could enter the information for several grade levels of the same subject topic for a specific disability to get the information they need to properly scaffold the learning activities for realistic long and short term IEP goals. Of course each lesson would have to be individually created ...the process would be very time consuming, but the end result in terms of higher student success levels may very well be worth the teacher's time and effort.

The UDL Lesson builder tool is definitely a resource I will share with my teachers. They are the ones in the 'trenches' every day I want to see what they think. Should it be used as a supplement to CScope or in place of CScope?

Resources:

http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/tes/chapter4_3.cfm